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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

8 APR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

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APR 13 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Sarbanes:

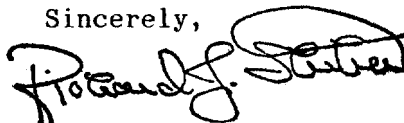
This is in reply to your letter of February 22, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take your constituents' concerns into account when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Your constituents' letters will be included in the record of the proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Shibben
Chief, Land Mobile & Microwave Division
Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 2 copies
List A B C D E

Congressional

DUE: 3-31-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
03/24/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9301334	03/24/93	02/22/93	04/13/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Paul Sarbanes	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/LM			
3-25			
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
03/24/93			

REMARKS:

PAUL S. SARBANES
MARYLAND

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

PRB
92-235-
1334

February 22, 1993

Lauren Belvin
Interim Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20000

Dear Ms. Belvin:

Enclosed is correspondence I received from my constituents regarding the Federal Communications Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in PR Docket 92-235 regarding radio-control frequencies.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would review the enclosed material and provide me with a response. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator

PSS/vrl
Enclosures

RECEIVED
FEB 25 1993
U.S. SENATE

9025 Marseille Drive
Potomac
MD 20854-3121
23 February 1993

The Honorable Paul Sarbanes 93 FEB -2 PM 4:25
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sarbanes:

I have had a love affair with aeronautics since my schooldays in England in WWII; I became an aeronautical engineer, which was a terrific springboard to many other fascinating disciplines. I am now close to retirement, and can take the time to join my son in indulging our deep interest, which has been sustained by model aeronautics and radio control. It is vital for the future of the youth of this country that this vehicle to excite and challenge their imagination not be diminished, but be encouraged to grow. It is a power for good in the community nationwide, uniting young and old in cooperation and experiment, in volunteering for the public good in flying demonstrations, in solving problems creatively at all ages, and in encouraging small business entrepreneurship.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not

think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. Our hobby is nationwide and provides many hours of enjoyment and education to thousands of people like myself and my son, and contributes to the advancement of America's small businesses, and helps to maintain a source of dedicated engineers for the aviation industry.

Please help us continue to safely develop our hobby's national potential for enjoyment and education, by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-

3321 Ashmore Court
Olney, Maryland 20832-2530

93 FEB 23 AM 10:46

February 18, 1993

The Honorable Paul Sarbanes
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

We are very involved in the radio-control (R/C) hobby/sport and have many friends who also share in the same enjoyment. I personally own 2 radios, 4 R/C models and have a workshop full of other products necessary for operating my models. In my hometown area, we have R/C race tracks (Gaithersburg and Bowie), which entertain many people both young and old, all year long.

We are very concerned about the proposed rule that is under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rule will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for R/C model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability.

Our frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, R/C frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either user interfering with the other.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in PR docket 92-235 replaces Part 90 of the rules with a new Part 88. Part 90 allows for safe use of R/C aircraft and surface models by keeping 10KHz spacing between fixed commercial users and frequencies used by R/C enthusiasts. The new Part 88 will allow mobile users to go to frequencies within 2.5 KHz of frequencies available to us, eliminating safe use of at least 31 of the 50 channels on the 72 MHz band (for R/C aircraft) and 10 of the 30 frequencies on the 75 MHz band (for R/C cars and boats) now used by hobbyists. In fact, more channels will likely be affected.

When we operate our R/C models, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the R/C frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

The Honorable Paul Sarbanes
February 18, 1993
Page two

We don't think it is wise for the FCC to seek to expand the operation conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of R/C modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radio, but we have a considerable investment in our models and radio equipment. It is a large industry that must be saved from these detrimental FCC actions. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to hundreds of thousands of people, young and old, not only in the U.S. but worldwide. It also contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help us to continue the safe enjoyment of our pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposal PR docket 92-235 for the 72-76 MHz band. We all need your help urgently because the FCC has a deadline of February 26, 1993, after which it may become more difficult to avoid halting these proposals from going into effect.

Sincerely,


Steven and Mike Stoll

file: frgrule1.sen

The Honorable

PAUL SARBADES

309 HART SENATE OFFICE BLDG

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

93 FEB 22 PM 2:22

Dear Senator

I have been
interested in aviation for as long as I can remember. I am very active in a local club whose members
enjoy constructing and operating radio-controlled model airplanes. I personally own radios.

W. HENRY
154 EAST KINGSTON TALK LN
BALTIMORE, MD. 21220

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

93 FEB 22 PM 4:29

Dear Sirs:

It has recently come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering an action that will severely limit and potentially eliminate a very important hobby of mine, radio controlled (R/C) model airplanes, helicopters, cars and boats.

Your Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in PR Docket 92-235 replaces Part 90 of your rules with a new Part 88. Part 90 allows for safe use of R/C aircraft and surface models by keeping 10 Khz spacing between fixed commercial users and frequencies used by R/C enthusiasts. The new Part 88 will allow mobile users on frequencies within 2.5 Khz of frequencies available to us, eliminating safe use of at least 31 of the 50 channels on the 72 MHz band and 10 of the 30 frequencies on the 75 MHz band now used by hobbyists. In fact, more channels will likely be affected.

This action will have a severe, detrimental impact upon me and the entire R/C hobby industry. If put into effect, my airplane or helicopter could easily be shot out of the sky by a mobile user I'd have no way of knowing about. This creates a severe health hazard.

I have been involved in this hobby for 4 years. I own 3 radios and 3 model airplanes, helicopters, cars and boats. In addition, I have numerous engines, motors, chargers, field accessories and other products necessary to support my hobby. When you consider there are hundreds of thousands of other R/C hobbyists in the U.S. just like me, these proposed rule changes will affect a lot of people economically and in terms of enjoyment.

I urge you to reconsider this. Keep 10 Khz spacing between all frequencies on 75 MHz and 72 MHz bands available for safe use by R/C enthusiasts. Please don't eliminate this hobby that has grown tremendously over the past 30 years and has so much investment of money and enjoyment of people nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Walter A. H. Goe